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General Assembly
Sixty-fifth session

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Fifth Committee

Summary record of the 18th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 29 November 2010, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Mr. Soomro (Vice-Chair) ..... (Pakistan)
Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Ms. McLurg

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10-65511 (E)

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In the absence of Mr. Rosenthal (Guatemala), Mr. Soomro (Pakistan), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 129: Programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011 (*continued*)

Information and communication technology, enterprise resource planning and International Public Sector Accounting Standards (A/65/308, A/65/389, A/65/491, A/65/576 and A/65/577)

1. **Mr. Yamazaki** (Controller), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the status of implementation of the information and communications technology (ICT) strategy for the United Nations Secretariat (A/65/491), said that the goal of the ICT strategy was to maximize the value of ICT across the global Secretariat in order to increase the Organization's effectiveness and efficiency in delivering services. The main thrusts of the strategy were to overcome the difficulties attributable to a highly fragmented ICT environment and to build strategic ICT capabilities by introducing improved systems, tools and methods. The Secretariat had made significant progress in implementing the various aspects of the ICT strategy approved by the General Assembly in December 2008. The ICT management structure was fully operational and a number of high-impact projects, including Umoja, were being implemented under three strategic programmes in the areas of knowledge management, resource management and infrastructure management. Progress had not been easy, however, because while the Office of Information and Communications Technology had been established in a budget- and staff-neutral manner, its mandate had been significantly broadened and the demand for its services had increased exponentially. Despite the challenges, a comprehensive structural review of ICT capacities across the Organization had been completed, as requested by the General Assembly. That exercise had provided, for the first time, a transparent view of all ICT resources and capacities across the Secretariat and had helped to identify areas that required further improvement.

2. Based on the structural review, the Secretary-General was proposing that four projects should be undertaken to substantially improve the Organization's global ICT operations. Three projects, to globalize service desks, streamline data centres and rationalize ICT organization, were intended to address the existing fragmentation of ICT activities and resources, while the fourth project, to strengthen the Office of Information and Communications Technology, was aimed at establishing mechanisms that would prevent future fragmentation through better planning and coordination, while increasing the transparency of ICT capacities.

3. It was to be hoped that Member States, despite the current economic climate, would support the implementation of the ICT strategy, in particular by providing the necessary resources for the four critical projects proposed, which could produce significant qualitative and quantitative benefits for the Organization.

4. The second progress report on the enterprise resource planning (ERP) project and revised estimates under section 28A, Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Management, of the programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011 and under the support account for peacekeeping operations (A/65/389) described the progress made and challenges faced in the implementation of the ERP project, known as Umoja, in 2010. Umoja was the cornerstone of United Nations administrative reform and represented a unique opportunity to transform how the Organization delivered its mandates. In accordance with the "pilot first" option endorsed by the General Assembly, the complete Umoja solution would be rolled out at a pilot site in 2012, prior to its deployment across the Organization as a whole. The future administrative operating model for the United Nations had been designed in 2010 and would be configured to the technical specifications of the future software system in 2011; the solution would then be prototyped, tested and refined.

5. Member States were requested to continue to support the implementation of the Umoja project. While the Umoja team had endeavoured to run the project at lower cost in the last year and was looking for opportunities to reduce cost projections, in accordance with the General Assembly's request for lower-cost options (resolution 64/243, para. 113), it was not possible to make dramatic cuts at the current stage without substantially altering the plan and approach that had been approved by the Assembly. The overall projected level of funding was currently unchanged at some $315 million over the life of the project.

6. The third progress report on the adoption of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards

(IPSAS) by the United Nations (A/65/308) detailed the progress made towards IPSAS implementation for the period from 1 August 2009 to 31 July 2010. The system-wide IPSAS adoption project, under the auspices of the High-Level Committee on Management, had provided guidance and support to United Nations organizations through initiatives including policy coordination, accounting guidance, technical information exchange, centralized development of training, engagement with external auditors, and sharing of implementation experiences. Many challenges in the implementation of IPSAS had been faced across the United Nations system, as detailed in paragraph 27 of the report; however, numerous initiatives had been taken, in such areas as project governance, IPSAS policy development and change management, to address those challenges and ensure full implementation of IPSAS by 2014. The World Food Programme had successfully implemented the Standards in 2008; eight organizations aimed to implement them in 2010, two in 2011, nine in 2012 and two in 2014.

7. Close collaboration with the Umoja project, with a particular focus on synchronizing the strategies and timelines for implementation of IPSAS and Umoja; progressive implementation of IPSAS requirements to the extent permitted by current systems and accounting standards; and active engagement with the Board of Auditors were other significant developments highlighted in the report.

8. **Ms. McLurg** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the Advisory Committee's report on information and communications technology (A/65/576), said that she welcomed the progress made towards completion of the design phase of the Umoja project. While the project remained on track to be completed by the end of 2013 within the projected resource requirements and timeline, the high level of vacancies in the project team was a concern. Such vacancies should be filled as a matter of priority. Efficient and speedy procedures for the selection of subject matter experts were also needed. Furthermore, the Advisory Committee recommended approval of the Secretary-General's proposals to address gaps identified in the ERP team structure, especially in terms of strengthening in-house capacity and transferring knowledge from consultants to programme and project staff.

9. The Secretary-General had not presented options for lowering the cost of the project, as requested by the General Assembly, but had proposed a number of measures to contain costs. The Advisory Committee noted that opportunities existed for partnering with other United Nations entities and sharing costs through the development of common solutions.

10. The Secretary-General should provide an inventory of the systems that could be replaced by the ERP system. The ERP team should collaborate with other ICT units in producing such an inventory, and planning for the decommissioning of the systems in question should be coordinated by the Office of Information and Communications Technology. There was also a need for greater collaboration with the Office as the project moved from the design phase to the build phase, since the ERP system would, upon completion, be maintained under the Office's resource management programme. The ERP system should be viewed as the central Organization-wide system of record and the authoritative data source for all key data related to the management of human, financial and physical resources.

11. Turning to the status of implementation of the ICT strategy, she said that the progress made in relation to the ICT management framework and the three strategic programmes of the Office of Information and Communications Technology, as well as the efforts under way towards system-wide harmonization, were to be commended. The Advisory Committee also welcomed the comprehensive structural review, and emphasized the role of a strong, central and independent Office of Information and Communications Technology to reverse the current fragmentation of the ICT environment.

12. With regard to the four projects proposed by the Secretary-General in the wake of the structural review, the Advisory Committee recommended that the Secretary-General should be authorized to proceed with project 3, to rationalize the ICT organization, since establishing clear job boundaries, determining where ICT activities were to be performed and developing a global staffing model were prerequisites for the necessary organizational changes to the ICT management structure. The Advisory Committee further recommended that the Secretary-General should review the prioritization and the phasing of the remaining projects and present alternative implementation approaches in the context of the proposed programme

budget for the biennium 2012-2013. Pending consideration of those proposals, the Secretary-General should pursue project 1, to globalize service desks, and should be authorized to proceed with the project activities planned for 2011. With regard to project 4, to strengthen the Office of Information and Communications Technology, the Advisory Committee considered that the Secretary-General should take a more gradual approach to building ICT capacity in the Organization, which would ideally involve the redeployment of resources released as a result of efficiency gains; it recommended that general temporary assistance equivalent to seven P-4 positions should be provided as additional capacity for the Office of Information and Communications Technology pending the submission of alternative proposals. All additional requirements should be provided from within the approved resources for the biennium 2010-2011 and actual expenditure should be reported in the second performance report.

13. The Advisory Committee recommended that the General Assembly should take note of the Secretary-General's third progress report on the adoption of IPSAS (A/65/308).

14. **Mr. Al-Shahari** (Yemen), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the Group, which fully recognized the need for a sound ICT infrastructure to improve the Organization's efficiency, effectiveness, transparency and accountability, welcomed the provision of a more detailed timeline for the Umoja project and the progress made towards completion of its design phase. While implementation of Umoja was a complex endeavour, Member States had already provided resources and strong political backing for the project. As long as resources continued to be approved for the project, responsibility for its effective realization lay solely with management and, more specifically, the Secretary-General, who, given the comprehensive and cross-cutting nature of the project, should exert his leadership and involve himself directly in its execution. In that regard, the Group noted with concern that only 46 of the 80 staffing positions approved for the project had been filled as at 31 August 2010. The Secretary-General should fill the vacancies as a matter of urgency, with due respect for existing recruitment rules.

15. The Group welcomed the ICT structural review that had been conducted. However, it noted that the reports of the Secretary-General on the ERP project (A/65/389) and the status of implementation of the ICT strategy (A/65/491) seemed to have been prepared in an uncoordinated fashion. For example, while the report on the ERP project pointed out that some 690 systems could be replaced by Umoja, it was not clear how that had been taken into account in the proposed project to rationalize the ICT organization, described in the report on the ICT strategy. In fact, all four of the projects proposed in that report were presented as completely unrelated to the ERP project.

16. The Group, noting that the Organization's annualized ICT budget was estimated at $774 million, with a total ICT staff count of 4,219, and that the Secretary-General had requested another $140 million for further ICT initiatives, in addition to the estimated resource requirements of $316 million for the implementation of the ERP system, expressed serious concern that many substantive areas of the Organization were chronically underfunded, adversely affecting the implementation of mandates. Recalling that savings achieved as a result of efficiency measures were to be transferred to the Development Account, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 54/15, he also expressed concern at the Secretary-General's statement that resources made available as a result of efficiency gains could be reallocated to higher-value ICT functions.

17. The Secretary-General had not provided a solid rationale to justify the current placement of the Office of Information and Communications Technology in the structure of the Organization. The request for additional resources under project 4 proved that the original proposal, approved by the General Assembly at its sixty-third session, was not viable and should be re-examined. Furthermore, the Group sought clarification of the information provided to the Advisory Committee by the Office of Information and Communications Technology indicating that only structural review projects 4 and 3 were of first priority. It was regrettable that the Secretary-General had presented proposals on projects that were not considered to be of the highest priority, apparently as a bargaining position to "negotiate" with Member States. Such an approach undermined the trust of Member States in the Secretary-General's future proposals.

18. While the Group stressed the need to take into account the specificities of ICT requirements in field missions and cautioned against a strategy that would lead to excessive centralization, it also encouraged the Secretary-General to seek further opportunities for

synergies and the adoption of common solutions, procedures and standards across the United Nations system, as mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/289.

19. The Organization should use the implementation of IPSAS as an opportunity to overcome some of the problems in its current accounting system. For example, the Standards should be uniformly applied throughout the United Nations system so that the financial statements of different entities would be consistent and comparable. The Secretary-General, as Chairman of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB), should continue to coordinate all aspects of the transition to IPSAS. A comprehensive training strategy for staff was needed in order to minimize the considerable risks involved in the transition process. Lastly, the timetable for implementation of IPSAS should be realistic and synchronized with the introduction of the new ERP system. As delays in the implementation of Umoja would have a direct impact on IPSAS, the Secretary-General should make every effort to ensure that the proposed timetable for Umoja was followed.

20. **Mr. De Preter** (Belgium), speaking on behalf of the European Union; the candidate countries Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; the stabilization and association process countries Montenegro and Serbia; and, in addition, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, said that the European Union welcomed the Secretariat's work to date on the Umoja project, which represented an opportunity to enhance the Organization's effectiveness and efficiency through streamlined information management and business processes. Sustained and long-term commitment would be vital for Organization-wide acceptance of the new system and realization of its benefits.

21. The European Union also welcomed the work being done by the IPSAS Task Force in managing emerging accounting policy diversity among organizations. That would facilitate comparisons of financial information across the different organizations of the United Nations system.

22. The European Union, recognizing the importance of an Organization-wide ICT strategy, welcomed and encouraged efforts to seek further opportunities for synergies and for the adoption of common standards and solutions across the United Nations system. However, it had questions about the details of the projects being proposed, and wondered why the Secretary-General had presented the proposal in an off-budget year. The European Union reiterated the importance of avoiding a piecemeal approach that substantially increased an already approved programme budget. It therefore concurred with the Advisory Committee that the resource requirements for the ICT proposal should have been introduced in the context of the proposed programme budgets for 2012-2013 and 2014-2015.

23. **Mr. Gürber** (Switzerland), speaking also on behalf of Liechtenstein, said that the two delegations welcomed the considerable progress made during the design phase of the ERP project. They trusted that the project would remain on track and within budget or even below budget. They also encouraged the Umoja team to continue to explore cross-cutting issues and opportunities for interaction with a view to improving the Secretariat's administrative functions and service delivery, which would add further value to the new solution. The two delegations welcomed the Secretary-General's proposal to redeploy resources from contractual services in order to meet additional requirements for temporary posts in a cost-neutral manner. In that connection, they urged the Secretariat to take all necessary measures to accelerate recruitment.

24. Convinced that ICT was key to improving the effectiveness of United Nations management, the two delegations welcomed the progress made since the adoption of General Assembly resolution 63/262. However, the findings of the structural review, which highlighted the fragmentation of ICT efforts throughout the Organization, showed that although the creation of the Office of Information and Communications Technology had been a first step in the right direction, much remained to be done. The Office should take the lead and bring together all decentralized ICT resources in order to develop and implement harmonized ICT solutions across the entire Organization. The two delegations welcomed, in principle, the Secretary-General's proposals to address the problems highlighted by the structural review; however, the four projects must be planned and sequenced wisely in order to reduce up-front costs while achieving benefits in the most urgent areas. The Advisory Committee's recommendations were a good starting point for discussions in that regard.

25. Concerning the timetable for the adoption of IPSAS by the United Nations Secretariat, the two delegations would not accept another postponement beyond 2014. The successful integration of IPSAS into the Umoja project was crucial for implementation of the Standards.

26. **Mr. Tan** (Singapore) said that his delegation supported the Secretary-General's ICT strategy and welcomed the solutions proposed to address the shortcomings identified by the structural review. At the same time, the Organization's long-term strategic needs should be borne in mind and all proposals should be carefully scrutinized and prioritized in order to ensure the selection and funding of those able to deliver the best outcomes.

27. His delegation was pleased to note that Umoja was still on track to be deployed within the time frame projected in the first progress report (A/64/380). The necessary mechanisms and personnel should be put in place to realize the initiative's benefits as soon as possible. The need for a shared vision for Umoja among all United Nations staff and an active long-term commitment from all its stakeholders should also be stressed. His delegation concurred with the Advisory Committee that the sustained commitment of the Secretary-General, the Management Committee and the Project Steering Committee would be required in order to facilitate Organization-wide adaptation to change and improved methods of work. The success of the Umoja project would therefore hinge on strong leadership to generate support and cooperation at all levels of the Organization.

28. The adoption of IPSAS represented a step towards improving governance, accountability and transparency in the United Nations system. The proposed strategy of progressive incorporation of IPSAS requirements into existing United Nations accounting standards and information systems was a balanced and practical approach that could facilitate a smooth transition to IPSAS and clarify IPSAS-related requirements for the ERP system. That said, the adoption of IPSAS was also somewhat dependent on the progress made towards the implementation of Umoja; continued close coordination and alignment of activities between the two projects was therefore needed to ensure that they were implemented within the established timelines.

29. **Mr. Lieberman** (United States of America) said that his delegation welcomed the progress made by the Umoja team and its continued efforts to find ways of lowering costs, as requested by the General Assembly. Successful implementation of the Umoja project would enable the Organization to greatly improve its mandate delivery at Headquarters and in the field. In that connection, the timely recruitment of staff and subject matter experts was crucial if Umoja was to be deployed on time and within budget. His delegation also agreed with the Advisory Committee that the technical standards of Umoja and the Office of Information and Communications Technology should be aligned, and that the respective roles and responsibilities of the ERP Technical Management Team, the Office of Information and Communications Technology and the Information and Communications Technology Division of the Department of Field Support might need to be reviewed and clarified. The Secretary-General should, as a matter of priority, make every effort to fill vacancies and ensure that Umoja received full support from all parts of the Organization.

30. An effective and coherent United Nations ICT system was of fundamental importance to support the Organization's daily operational needs, facilitate the implementation of vital business improvement projects such as Umoja, and manage knowledge for delivery to the global community. With regard to the findings of the structural review, his delegation agreed that greater transparency was needed to improve the management of ICT resources and concurred with the Advisory Committee that the unique ICT requirements of field missions, particularly with regard to communication activities, should be taken into account in the ICT strategy. A coordinated approach was needed to facilitate the seamless delivery of essential services.

31. His delegation was cautiously optimistic about the projects proposed by the Secretary-General. Project 3 was fundamental for improving human resources planning, ICT staff management and productivity; it also had significant potential as a means of enhancing cost-effectiveness. Projects 1 and 2 were pragmatic and necessary responses to the duplication of roles and responsibilities within the Secretariat. His delegation concurred with the Advisory Committee that the redeployment of resources released as a result of efficiency gains was a sound approach to strengthening the Office of Information and Communications Technology, undertaking project 3 and planning for

project 1. His delegation would be proposing that the Chief Information Technology Officer should develop a thorough plan of action, including a complete budget, detailed timeline and quantifiable benchmarks for monitoring progress and improvements, before any project was launched.

32. **Mr. Okochi** (Japan) said that his delegation welcomed the Secretary-General's initiative in conducting a structural review of the Organization's ICT capacities. Steps should be taken to address the fragmentation, inconsistent processes, duplication of effort and lack of integration highlighted by that review. Reforms should not, however, be undertaken for their own sake but should be based on a sound cost-benefit analysis and placed in the context of the overall discussion of the Organization's budget. In an off-budget year, the General Assembly's approval should in principle be sought only for urgent high-priority projects with fully demonstrated benefits.

33. In order to determine the real benefits of the proposed structural review projects, it was critical to know how the staff resources released as a result of efficiency gains would be used. In that regard, his delegation was not entirely reassured by the Secretariat's explanation that all such staff would be redeployed towards higher-value ICT functions or other substantive activities. The outcome of the review requested by the Advisory Committee on the prioritization and phasing of structural review projects should therefore include a feasible and efficiency-oriented plan to address the deployment of staff resources released through implementation of the projects.

34. **Mr. Kim** Yoon-sang (Republic of Korea) said that ICT systems were no longer a luxury but a necessary means of enabling the Secretariat to adapt to ever-changing environments and avoid lagging behind other organizations. The crucial importance of timely investments in and implementation of various ICT initiatives should therefore be stressed. The short-term cost savings that might be obtained by delaying such investments would come at the expense of much larger efficiency gains over the long term. The General Assembly should therefore provide the Secretariat with the guidance it needed to improve the Organization's efficiency and effectiveness.

35. With regard to the establishment and implementation of Organization-wide ICT standards and activities, the Chief Information Technology Officer should show strong leadership to ensure efficient utilization of resources and an improvement in the ICT environment. Furthermore, he should increase his efforts to coordinate the different needs and interests within the Secretariat and cooperate with other United Nations organizations. The full support of all relevant departments and missions, and all other United Nations organizations, was also crucial in establishing globally integrated, transparent and accountable ICT systems.

36. The Secretariat was to be commended for its ICT structural review. However, the fact that the current ICT environment had been found to be highly fragmented, non-standardized, duplicated, decentralized and lacking in client orientation was a matter of concern. His delegation would carefully review the four projects proposed by the Secretary-General and would compare the immediate costs with future benefits in order to determine whether the requested resources were appropriate.

37. His delegation noted that considerable progress had been made with regard to the ERP project. It welcomed the Secretary-General's initiative regarding the proposed redeployment of resources from contractual services to posts, which would enable some previously outsourced functions to be executed more effectively and efficiently by in-house staff and would therefore result in budget savings of some $1.7 million. His delegation would carefully review the proposed increase in project staffing.

38. **Mr. Pankin** (Russian Federation) said that improving ICT to meet the Organization's needs and strengthen decision-making and cooperation with partners was essential. Overall, the Organization spent more than $832 million annually on ICT and employed over 4,000 staff in that sector. Those figures reflected the priority that Member States attached to modernizing the United Nations.

39. Despite the high volume of investments, Member States were now being told that additional expenditure was required to streamline the Organization's ICT architecture, without which further optimization of outputs and efficiency could not be achieved. Such assertions were disconcerting, given that the existing architecture had been developed by the relevant specialized offices of the Secretariat over a period of years and had been touted as optimal for the United Nations. It was also unfortunate that, in a breach of

financial discipline, the funding requests were being made outside the normal budget cycle.

40. The projected annual efficiency gains of $71.3 million to $101.8 million from the proposed ICT initiatives and the estimated quantitative benefits of $134 million to $224 million from the Umoja project were based on arbitrary projections that did not reflect the current trends and future requirements of United Nations mandates, including peacekeeping mandates. Given that administrative functions made up a large part of all United Nations activity, ICT and ERP reforms should reduce the administrative burden and costs. To determine the actual benefits of the proposed reforms it was necessary to quantify the administrative resources they would free up; it would be for the General Assembly to decide how those resources should be used.

Other matters

41. **Ms. Sánchez Lorenzo** (Cuba) said that her delegation called for an end to the irresponsible use of phrases such as "within existing resources" during negotiations on various draft resolutions in other Main Committees of the General Assembly. Such phrases were used almost exclusively in relation to draft resolutions that were sponsored by developing countries and aimed at fostering United Nations cooperation with those most in need, thereby strengthening the Organization's development pillar; none of those initiatives were very costly. The delegations that used that phrase did little to curb the uncontrollable growth in add-ons requested for special political missions, which now accounted for 76.4 per cent of total projected add-ons to the regular budget, to the detriment of activities promoting economic and social development in countries of the South.

42. Her delegation recalled the provisions of General Assembly resolution 45/248 B, section VI, as well as the Advisory Committee's conclusions and recommendations on the matter, which had been endorsed by the General Assembly. Delegations which sought to use such phrases to block the adoption of draft resolutions sponsored by developing countries were well aware that they were overstepping the mandates of the substantive Committees. In that regard, it was unacceptable that Cuba and other members of the Group of 77 and China should be branded as "consensus blockers" when they demanded respect for the Fifth Committee's administrative and budgetary mandate. At the same time, the senior Secretariat officials responsible for reporting to the Assembly should provide comprehensive, accurate and realistic resource estimates.

The meeting rose at 11.25 a.m.

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Summary record of the 19th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 2 December 2010, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Mr. Rosenthal ..... (Guatemala)
Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Ms. McLurg

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Agenda item 153: Financing of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti

Agenda item 129: Programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011 (*continued*)

Revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Human Rights Council at its twelfth, thirteenth, fourteenth and fifteenth sessions

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10-66435 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 153: Financing of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (A/65/535 and A/65/586)

1. **Mr. Yamazaki** (Controller), introducing the Secretary-General's report on the budget for the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) for the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011 (A/65/535), said that, by its resolution 64/278, the General Assembly had approved commitment authority with assessment in the amount of $380 million (gross) for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2010. The proposed budget amounted to $865,313,200, which represented an increase of $132,920,200 over the resources approved for the 2009/10 period.

2. The variances in requirements, which were explained in chapter III of the report, were attributable primarily to increased requirements resulting from the deployment of additional military and police personnel pursuant to Security Council resolutions 1908 (2010) and 1927 (2010).

3. The proposed staffing for 2010/11 reflected a net increase of 2 national posts, 46 United Nations Volunteer positions and 339 temporary positions, and a net decrease of 1 international post. The additional net requirements of $26,905,400 related to the 339 temporary positions were partly offset by a decrease of $17,568,000 attributable to the exclusion of requirements for special measures provided in the 2009/10 period and the application of a vacancy factor of 14 per cent, compared with 9 per cent in the 2009/10 period.

4. Increased requirements of $31,101,100 under facilities and infrastructure were attributable to construction services, standard reimbursements to troop- and formed police-contributing countries, security services for additional residential and office premises throughout the Mission area and alteration and renovation services in support of the rehabilitation of all MINUSTAH premises affected by the earthquake of 12 January 2010.

5. Additional requirements of $11,145,200 under ground transportation were attributable primarily to the acquisition of 280 additional vehicles and the replacement of 110 light vehicles in view of the surge in operations following the earthquake.

6. The actions requested of the General Assembly were set out in paragraph 289 of the report.

7. **Ms. McLurg** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the related report of the Advisory Committee (A/65/586), said that, during the Advisory Committee's review of the budget proposal, the Secretary-General had presented a revised budget estimate of $864,189,700 for 2010/11. The reduced amount was based on a lower projected requirement for helicopter rental. A summary of the revised estimates was contained in annex I of the Advisory Committee's report.

8. The Advisory Committee had also been provided with an updated deployment schedule for the Mission. On the basis of that schedule, the Advisory Committee recommended an increase in the vacancy rates for formed police units and for national and international staff under general temporary assistance.

9. The Advisory Committee recommended that the General Assembly should appropriate an amount of $853,827,400 for the maintenance of the Mission from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011. It also recommended that the General Assembly should approve assessment of the amount of $473,827,400 for the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011, in addition to the amount of $380 million already assessed under resolution 64/278.

10. **Mr. Errázuriz** (Chile), speaking on behalf of the Rio Group, said that he wished to reiterate the Group's commitment to the full reconstruction of Haiti following the January 2010 earthquake. The situation in Haiti had been further complicated by Hurricane Tomas, which had struck the country in November 2010, and the cholera epidemic. As a result of those unforeseen developments, the Mission had been forced to increase its staffing and redouble its efforts to support the recovery, reconstruction and stabilization of Haiti. The Group was therefore concerned to note that some international stakeholders had not fulfilled their pledges to provide financial assistance to the Haitian authorities.

11. Despite the complete destruction of its headquarters by the earthquake, MINUSTAH had been able to resume its operations in many parts of Haiti. The Group commended Mission staff for their ability to work under the most difficult of circumstances and urged them to continue to fulfil their mandate.

12. The Group attached great importance to quick-impact projects, which made it possible to meet immediate needs and build confidence in the Mission's mandate and the peace process. Such projects should be implemented in accordance with the priorities established by the Haitian Government. For its part, the Group had come to the assistance of Haiti even before MINUSTAH had been established. A large medical contingent composed of nationals of nearly every Latin American and Caribbean country was currently helping to suppress the cholera epidemic and meet the Haitian people's other public health needs.

13. The Group emphasized the need for the international community to fulfil its commitments to mobilize financial resources for the reconstruction of Haiti. In that connection, in order to make a lasting impact, the United Nations should focus not only on establishing security, but also on promoting the country's socio-economic development and achieving lasting peace.

14. **Mr. Lafortune** (Canada), speaking also on behalf of Australia and New Zealand, said that, in 2010, MINUSTAH had been required to operate in one of the most challenging environments ever encountered by a United Nations mission. However, despite the challenges, the work of rebuilding Haiti must continue. In that connection, the three delegations welcomed the strong role that the Mission had played in supporting the conduct of presidential and legislative elections in November 2010, and trusted that it would continue to assist the Haitian people and their newly elected Government in building a secure and stable country.

15. Although the democratic development and consolidation of State authority was a key element of the Mission's work, the situation in Haiti would not stabilize unless security, public order and the rule of law were established and the security sector was reformed. A strong police force and strong judicial and correctional systems were crucial for achieving those goals. It was therefore vital to continue to implement and update the Haitian National Police reform plan. The three delegations also welcomed the proposed actions to strengthen the Haitian Department of Prison Administration. The training and mentoring provided by MINUSTAH to the Haitian corrections authorities would be crucial for strengthening the rule of law and would complement the work being done with regard to police reform.

16. After the earthquake, several camps had been established to accommodate internally displaced persons. The three delegations commended the Secretary-General for his proposal aimed at helping the Haitian National Police to protect those displaced by the earthquake, with special regard to women and children. They also noted with appreciation the Secretary-General's intention to resettle more than half of the displaced population by December 2011.

17. In view of the serious blow that the earthquake had dealt to Haitian institutions, the provision of logistical and technical support to the Government would be crucial to the success of the Mission. He trusted that all such support would be provided with strict accountability by all implementing partners.

18. The three delegations noted that the temporary nature of the Mission's expanded role was reflected in the Secretary-General's request for 62 temporary positions. In the informal consultations, they would seek clarification of the implications of that temporary expansion for staff, budgets and other resources.

19. **Ms. Sánchez Lorenzo** (Cuba) said that the current situation in Haiti was the result of the unjust international order which condemned millions of people to live in underdevelopment and allowed the poor to suffer horribly from the effects of natural disasters and epidemics. It was therefore regrettable that only a fraction of the financial resources required to rebuild Haiti had been received thus far, and it did not appear that the outstanding amount would be immediately forthcoming.

20. In order to assist in controlling the cholera epidemic, her Government would soon dispatch the Henry Reeve International Contingent of Doctors Specializing in Disaster Situations and Serious Epidemics. Consisting of some 300 doctors, nurses and health-care technicians, the Contingent would join medical workers already deployed in the field. In that connection, she noted that more than 200 of the medical personnel deployed to Haiti were graduates of the Latin American School of Medicine, whose students came from many different countries, including the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic.

21. Given the current situation in Haiti, the international community must act swiftly and without conditions. Promises must be kept and resources must be provided to help those most in need, in cooperation with the Government and people of Haiti.

22. **Ms. Dunlop** (Brazil) said that, despite immense human and material losses, Haiti was making significant strides in its recovery, and key political processes had been resumed. However, the recovery effort was far from complete and reconstruction was still a significant challenge. Building on the progress made thus far required strong leadership by the Government and sustained support from the Mission in three priority areas: security, recovery and reconstruction, and the conclusion of the electoral process.

23. While her delegation supported the Secretary-General's proposals as a whole, it wished to emphasize that the problems facing Haiti could only be overcome through capacity-building and the strengthening of national institutions. It was therefore crucial that the Mission should provide logistical support and technical expertise to the Haitian Government as expeditiously as possible, in accordance with Security Council resolutions 1927 (2010) and 1944 (2010).

24. The deployment of the additional police units authorized by the Security Council would allow United Nations police to expand the scope of their activities. Sufficient resources should be allocated to enable MINUSTAH to reimburse troop- and police-contributing countries without delay.

25. Every effort must be made to ensure the safety of Haitians living in camps for internally displaced persons, in particular women and children. The Mission should continue its work in that regard, paying special attention to protection against sexual and gender-based violence. The expanded community violence reduction programmes and the allocation of additional resources for quick-impact projects would contribute significantly to those efforts.

26. Her Government was closely following developments related to the recent presidential and legislative elections. MINUSTAH should continue to support the electoral process and help to maintain a secure and stable environment. Her delegation called on Haiti's political leaders to remain committed to the electoral process, which was vital for achieving stability and creating a favourable environment for economic growth and investment.

27. **Mr. Mérorès** (Haiti) said that, even though it had had to rebuild its own facilities after the earthquake, MINUSTAH had continued to carry out its mandate, which had been made more difficult by the outbreak of cholera and the need to support the recently concluded elections. He thanked the United Nations and all Member States for the support they had already given to Haiti and appealed to the international community to fulfil the promises it had made to the Haitian people and Government at the International Donors' Conference held in New York on 31 March 2010.

28. His delegation welcomed the Secretary-General's proposal regarding the financing of the Mission, particularly the resources proposed for quick-impact projects. Such projects should be implemented as soon as possible and in cooperation with the Haitian Government, in order to avoid duplication of effort. His delegation was concerned about the high vacancy rate for national staff and called on the Secretariat to make every effort to remedy the situation.

29. **Mr. Benmoussa** (Morocco), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that his delegation was extremely surprised that, in her statement, the representative of Cuba had referred to an entity that was not recognized by the United Nations. His delegation objected to the reference, which was inappropriate in the context of the Fifth Committee.

30. **Ms. Sánchez Lorenzo** (Cuba), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that her Government would continue to work with all those who wished to join Cuba in carrying out its cooperation programme, including with regard to the deployment of medical staff to Haiti. Sufficient information concerning the scholarships awarded by Cuba to students from Non-Self-Governing Territories, including the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic, was available in the reports of the Secretary-General on offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories.

Agenda item 129: Programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011 (*continued*)

Revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Human Rights Council at its twelfth, thirteenth, fourteenth and fifteenth sessions (A/65/333 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1)

31. **Ms. Van Buerle** (Director, Programme Planning and Budget Division), introducing the Secretary-General's report on revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Human Rights Council at its twelfth, thirteenth and fourteenth sessions

(A/65/333 and Corr.1), said that requirements estimated at $4,708,500 for the biennium 2010-2011 would arise as a result of those resolutions and decisions. Of those requirements, an estimated amount of $1,284,400 was related to activities of a perennial nature for which provision had already been made in the programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011.

32. With respect to the remaining requirements, estimated at $3,424,100, the Secretary-General proposed to accommodate $2,940,300 from within the existing appropriation for 2010-2011, while the balance, estimated at $483,800, would be funded through a commitment authority under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management ($147,000), and section 23, Human rights ($336,800), of the programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011.

33. The holding of a workshop in 2012 would require an estimated amount of $283,100 and would be considered in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013.

34. The conclusions and action required of the General Assembly were set out in chapter III of the report.

35. Introducing the Secretary-General's report on revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Human Rights Council at its fifteenth session (A/65/333/Add.1 and Corr.1), she said that requirements estimated at $7,911,400 (net) for the biennium 2010-2011 would arise as a result of those resolutions and decisions. Of those requirements, an estimated amount of $4,622,000 was related to activities of a perennial nature for which provision had already been made in the programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011. It was proposed that an additional amount estimated at $967,500 (net) should be met from within the approved appropriations for the biennium 2010-2011. It was further proposed that the balance of the requirements, estimated at $2,321,900 (net), should be met under the provisions of the contingency fund for the biennium 2010-2011.

36. The conclusions and action required of the General Assembly were set out in chapter III of the report.

37. **Ms. McLurg** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the related reports of the Advisory Committee (A/65/548 and Add.1), said that, with regard to the revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Council at its twelfth, thirteenth and fourteenth sessions, the Advisory Committee recommended that the additional requirements in the amount of $3,424,100 for the current biennium should be accommodated within the resources appropriated under the programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011 and should be reported in the context of the second performance report.

38. With regard to the revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Council at its fifteenth session, the Advisory Committee recommended that the General Assembly should approve the Secretary-General's proposals, with the exception of the additional resources requested in support of Council resolution 15/23 on elimination of discrimination against women. In reviewing the descriptions of the proposed P-4 and P-3 posts, the Advisory Committee found that some of their functions overlapped. It therefore recommended resources for the establishment, under general temporary assistance, of one P-4 post, one P-2 post and one General Service (Other level) post.

39. The Advisory Committee was cognizant of the time lag between the adoption of Council resolutions and decisions and the ex post facto approval by the General Assembly of the related resource requirements. It therefore recommended that the Secretary-General should consider exploring options for streamlining and synchronizing the resource requests related to those resolutions and decisions with resource requests related to the proposed programme budgets submitted biennially by the Secretariat.

The meeting rose at 11.10 a.m.

United Nations A/C.5/65/SR.20

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Chair: Mr. Rosenthal ..... (Guatemala)
Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Ms. McLurg

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United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Agenda item 129: Programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011 (*continued*)

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (A/65/531 and A/65/593)

1. **Mr. Yamazaki** (Controller), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the revised proposal for the use of regular budget resources for the normative support functions of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) (A/65/531), said that the revised proposal concerned the use of regular budget resources approved for the biennium 2010-2011 and that the report included an organizational chart of the Entity and options for administrative arrangements for its regular budget. It set out the necessary programmatic changes and the resources required for their implementation. In accordance with established practice, the report also contained summary information on the extrabudgetary resources of the new Entity.

2. The revised estimates mainly reflected the transfer of subprogramme 2, Gender issues and advancement of women, from section 9, Economic and social affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011 to a new budget section 37, UN Women. The Entity's programme of work included two subprogrammes and reflected the existing expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement, together with five additional expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement to reflect additional outputs to be implemented using extrabudgetary resources as a result of the addition of activities and resources from the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM).

3. The total proposed appropriation for 2011 under section 37 was $6,983,500, reflecting the transfer of $6,615,700 from section 9 and an additional appropriation of $367,800 to finance the establishment of three new posts. The initial appropriation for section 9 approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/244 A would be reduced accordingly from $166,217,100 to $159,601,400.

4. With respect to extrabudgetary resources, it was proposed that the amount of $1,322,200, representing the extrabudgetary resources for 2011 under subprogramme 2 of section 9, should be transferred to section 37, together with the estimated 2011 part of INSTRAW and UNIFEM resources in the amount of $132,768,000. Additional voluntary contributions of $359,866,300 were projected for 2011, bringing total extrabudgetary resources for the year to $493,956,400.

5. With respect to posts 42 posts — 28 Professional and above and 14 General Service to be redeployed from section 9 to section 37 would continue to be funded under the regular budget. An additional 3 posts — 1 Under-Secretary-General, 1 D-2 and 1 General Service — were also proposed. In anticipation of the growth in voluntary funding, the 2011 post complement under extrabudgetary resources was expected to increase from 94 to 368 posts.

6. To allow the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) to review the programmatic aspects of the new and revised mandates of UN Women and any differences between the biennial programme plan and the programmatic aspects of the proposed programme budget, the relevant documents would be submitted to the General Assembly through CPC in the context of the submission of the consolidated changes to the biennial plans for the periods 2010-2011 and 2012-2013. Specifically, the revisions to the approved biennial plan for the period 2010-2011 resulting from the elimination of the 2011 part of subprogramme 2 from section 9, as well as from the new narrative under section 37, would be submitted to CPC ex post facto at its July 2011 session. In addition, the biennial plan for the period 2012-2013 reflecting the full elimination of subprogramme 2 from section 9 and the introduction of the new programme for UN Women would be submitted to CPC during that session.

7. In response to the General Assembly's request in its resolution 64/289, two options concerning the administrative arrangements for the regular budget of UN Women were presented. Given the hybrid nature of the new Entity, option 1 was the preferred approach. Under that option, regular budget resources would be provided to UN Women in the form of a grant, which it would administer and disburse in accordance with its own financial regulations and rules and using its own enterprise resource planning system. Financial statements and related accounts would be submitted to the Board of Auditors in accordance with established procedures.

8. The grant modality had been used for a number of years for the implementation of the budget of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The budget process would remain unchanged except with regard to implementation. The General Assembly would thus maintain control of programme structure and performance, activities and outputs, and post and non-post resources funded from the regular budget.

9. **Ms. Bachelet** (Under-Secretary-General for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women) said that UN Women would not only function as a secretariat supporting intergovernmental normative work but also carry out operational activities at the country level in order to ensure that action at that level was commensurate with global goals and commitments for gender equality and women's empowerment. Member States and civil society had high expectations of the Entity, given their concerns about the persistent discrimination, marginalization and exclusion faced by many women and girls around the world.

10. The High-level Plenary Meeting on the Millennium Development Goals, held in September 2010, had taken place against a backdrop of slow progress in the gender equality dimensions of the Goals. What was lacking, in areas such as education and maternal mortality, was political will and the allocation of sufficient resources at the country level. If UN Women fulfilled its mission, women would no longer die in childbirth in such high numbers, rape would not be acceptable as a weapon of war and the economic potential of half a country's workforce would not be wasted due to lack of education.

11. The General Assembly had established UN Women by uniting the mandates and assets of four existing entities. UN Women would ensure more effective and coherent gender mainstreaming across the United Nations system and would provide better support to Member States. The budget proposal currently before the Committee focused on the regular budget resources for UN Women; a second proposal, on voluntary resources, would be submitted to the new Executive Board through the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in January 2011. Together, the two submissions would establish the new organizational structure of UN Women and put in place the minimum capacities needed to meet the requirements set out in General Assembly resolution 64/289. She was currently preparing a strategic vision and plan for the new Entity, to be submitted to the Board in June 2011. In the interim, ongoing activities must continue: Member States expected UN Women to be fully formed and ready for action on 1 January 2011.

12. Cost savings and economies of scale from the merger of the four entities had already been identified and further efficiencies would no doubt follow. UN Women would also have new functions and mandates, with an Executive Director at the level of Under-Secretary-General and a leading role in the United Nations system for coordinating action on gender equality at the global, regional and country levels. It was also expected to have increased capacity to respond to requests for support from national partners. The budget submission proposed the use of all existing posts funded from both regular budget and extrabudgetary resources to perform those functions; increased regular budget resources would nevertheless be required to fund the Under-Secretary-General post, a D-2 Chief of Staff and a General Service support post.

13. The provision of regular budget resources in the form of a grant, following the precedent of UNHCR, would ensure that intergovernmental bodies retained the authority to review and approve the regular budget portion of UN Women funding and to review expenditures. UN Women could then administer all its resources using an integrated resource management system and avoid the management and fiduciary risk associated with maintaining two financial and human resources systems. The second option would be to request the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to administer the regular budget portion of UN Women resources. Since that would probably be done on a reimbursable basis, it would require additional funds. Option 2 would effectively reverse the Assembly's intent in creating UN Women, since it would maintain the separation of staff performing normative and operational support functions rather than establishing a single Entity with a clear identity and strong esprit de corps. The grant modality, in contrast, would ensure that the Assembly maintained control over the regular budget funding of normative support activities while allowing UN Women to work as a cohesive entity.

14. **Ms. McLurg** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the related report of the Advisory Committee (A/65/593), said that the establishment of UN Women would strengthen the Organization's capacity to meet the increasing demand

for United Nations system support to advance gender equality and women's empowerment. She commended the Under-Secretary-General for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and her team for the progress accomplished in consolidating the mandates and functions of the four pre-existing entities.

15. The Advisory Committee was currently reviewing the proposal on the use of voluntary resources for UN Women, which would be considered by the Executive Board in 2011; accordingly, it had made only general comments on the future role and functions of UN Women, which were set out in chapter II of its report. UN Women must avoid overlaps with the mandates of other United Nations entities and Secretariat offices and departments working on similar issues. It should adopt a prudent approach to managing its future growth and should pursue all available opportunities for efficiencies and economies of scale. The Entity's final organizational structure should reflect a thorough review of staffing requirements in the field and at Headquarters, and all opportunities for rationalizing the post structure should be explored during the process of consolidating and modifying the institutional arrangements.

16. The Advisory Committee recommended approval of the grant modality option for the implementation of the regular budget portion of UN Women funding, which represented the most practical approach for a hybrid entity and would ensure maximum transparency in the administration of regular budget resources. There should be no weakening of the requirement for detailed reporting to the Assembly on the utilization of those resources.

17. Chapter IV of the report contained detailed comments on the proposal for a new budget section covering the financing of the normative and analytical activities of UN Women. The Advisory Committee recommended that the Assembly should approve the proposals for the creation of the new budget section and the establishment of three new posts.

18. **Mr. Al-Shahari** (Yemen), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that he welcomed the appointment of Ms. Bachelet, a woman from the developing world, as the first head of UN Women. The Group and the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, through the Joint Coordinating Committee, had played an active role in the process that had led to the establishment of the new Entity, with the aim of institutionalizing such concepts as universality, national ownership and equitable geographical representation. UN Women should fully reflect the principle of universality by including all regions and countries in its organizational structure.

19. He trusted that the incorporation of INSTRAW into UN Women would enhance the impact of the Institute's global training and research aimed at achieving the empowerment of women and gender equality worldwide. The Institute's experience and programmes, as well as the convenient geographical location and low operational costs of its facilities in the Dominican Republic, would lend themselves to that endeavour.

20. The Group was concerned that, under the Secretary-General's proposal, only 1.4 per cent of the total estimated budget of $500 million for UN Women would be financed under the regular budget. It was especially troubling that some of the senior posts at the Assistant Secretary-General and Director levels were to be funded through voluntary contributions. Because they involved strategic functions, such posts should be funded through assessed contributions. The share of such contributions should be increased in order to ensure predictable and transparent financing for the new Entity. Moreover, overreliance on voluntary contributions might change the focus of UN Women activities, making it donor-driven and thus distancing it from the priorities agreed by the General Assembly.

21. The Group supported the use of the grant modality for the implementation of the regular budget portion of UN Women funding. It was crucial to maintain the current process for review and approval of post and non-post resources by the Assembly and to follow the established procedure for review of the strategic framework by CPC.

22. Equitable geographical distribution was of fundamental importance in the filling of all posts and positions, including in the Office of the Executive Director, with a view to improving the participation of nationals of developing countries, particularly in senior posts.

23. **Mr. Grauls** (Belgium), speaking on behalf of the European Union; the candidate countries Croatia, Iceland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey; the stabilization and association process countries Albania, Montenegro and Serbia; and, in addition, Armenia, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova

and Ukraine, said that UN Women, a new landmark in United Nations reform, would be the keystone of the Organization's activities to advance gender equality and women's empowerment.

24. All administrative arrangements for the management of UN Women should be in place by the time it became operational on 1 January 2011. Steps should be taken from the outset to avoid overlaps with the mandates of other United Nations entities and Secretariat offices and departments dealing with similar issues.

25. The European Union supported the use of the grant modality for the implementation of the regular budget resources of UN Women. That modality, which had been used successfully by UNHCR for a number of years, would ensure the efficient and transparent administration of those resources.

26. **Mr. Errázuriz** (Chile), speaking on behalf of the Rio Group, said that the establishment of UN Women afforded a historic opportunity for gender mainstreaming across the United Nations system. The Group welcomed the appointment of Ms. Bachelet, a woman from the Latin American region, as Under-Secretary-General for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women; under her guidance, the new Entity would be an important tool for combating gender inequality and discrimination against women. Her effective management of the integration of the mandates and functions of the four entities to be incorporated into UN Women would improve coordination and coherence in the United Nations response to gender-based discrimination. He trusted that, after the initial transition period, INSTRAW would continue to provide global research and training from its facilities in the Dominican Republic, drawing on the value added by its experience, programmes, convenient location and low costs.

27. Strict adherence to the principles underlying the establishment of the new Entity, as set out in General Assembly resolution 64/289, was fundamental. The principle of universality — ensuring that UN Women effectively met the gender equality needs of all regions and countries — was particularly important. The principle of equitable geographical distribution should also be duly applied when filling posts, particularly in senior management.

28. UN Women should be given the necessary resources to fulfil its mandates so that it could fulfil the high hopes being placed in it. Senior management posts should be funded from the regular budget rather than from voluntary contributions to avoid interference in the selection of senior staff. The new Entity should promote coordination with all United Nations bodies, avoid duplication, make the best possible use of human and financial resources and identify possible shortcomings in the management of those resources.

29. **Mr. Ruiz Massieu** (Mexico) said that his delegation concurred with recent comments by the Under-Secretary-General for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women regarding the need for the new Entity to add value by providing stronger leadership and better coordination on gender issues throughout the United Nations system, rather than constituting merely the sum of its predecessors. The new Under-Secretary-General's appointment represented a major opportunity for the Organization: in view of her international stature and track record in the area of gender equality, his delegation was convinced that UN Women would perform its functions effectively and efficiently under her leadership.

30. His delegation favoured the integrated administration of the Entity's resources and the use of a grant modality for implementation of the regular budget component. The Secretary-General's current proposal should, however, be viewed merely as a starting point, on the basis of which further budget projections would be prepared after the Entity had become fully operational in January 2011. It was essential that UN Women should have the necessary resources at all times to operate fully and implement its mandate; his delegation would therefore carefully consider any future requests for additional resources.

31. His delegation concurred with the Advisory Committee that a prudent approach should be taken in considering the new Entity's structure and resource requirements, both financial and human, with a view to minimizing overlap and duplication of functions. Mexico would continue to play an active role in all United Nations forums addressing gender issues and would support the work of UN Women as a member of its Executive Board.

32. **Mr. Shin** Boo-nam (Republic of Korea) said that his delegation, which had long supported efforts to eliminate discrimination against women, achieve gender equality and empower women around the world, was fully committed to the goal of greater

system-wide coherence in pursuit of those aims. Bearing in mind that UN Women had not only assumed the mandates and functions of the four existing United Nations gender entities, but was a dynamic entity in its own right with the important role of leading, coordinating and promoting the accountability of the United Nations system in its work on gender equality and women's empowerment, and given that it was likely to require significant net increases in human and financial resources in the near future, its success was clearly dependent on the support provided by Member States. That said, the new Entity should continue to pursue all available opportunities for efficiencies and economies of scale.

33. **Mr. Marafi** (Kuwait) said that the establishment of UN Women represented a historic opportunity for Member States to increase their support for all activities promoting gender equality. Kuwait would support the work of the new Entity, which should prove more effective than the previous United Nations gender entities in achieving women's empowerment and gender equality, and trusted that the new mechanism would provide greater assistance to Governments in their efforts towards those ends.

34. The role of women in Kuwaiti society had been strengthened; women were now able to participate in the country's political and social life and assume high-ranking positions in the Government. His delegation hoped that continued cooperation with the United Nations would further advance the situation of women and enable them to become full partners in society, in response to one of the most important of the Millennium Development Goals.

35. **Mr. Abdullah** (Malaysia) said that his delegation fully supported the work of UN Women. While significant progress had already been made towards gender equality and women's empowerment, through landmark agreements such as the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, many challenges and obstacles still needed to be addressed. As a member of the UN Women Executive Board, his delegation would further strengthen its efforts and contribute to the Entity's work in meeting the needs of women and girls worldwide.

36. His delegation concurred with the Advisory Committee that the final organizational structure of UN Women should reflect a thorough review of staffing requirements, both in the field and at Headquarters, and underlined the importance of transparency in that regard. It supported the transfer of $6.6 million from section 9 of the programme budget for 2010-2011 to a newly created budget section 37, UN Women, effective 1 January 2011, and noted the appropriation of $7 million under the said section 37, including an amount for the establishment of three new posts. It was vital that UN Women should have the necessary resources to carry out its mandates effectively.

37. **Mr. Cuello Camilo** (Dominican Republic), welcoming the Secretary-General's decision to appoint the former President of Chile as the Under-Secretary-General for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, said that the Dominican Republic had a long tradition of fighting for gender equality, the rights of women and their empowerment. Recalling that INSTRAW had its headquarters in Santo Domingo, his delegation trusted that the Institute's wealth of knowledge and experience would be fully utilized by UN Women and that its highly professional and qualified staff would be incorporated into the United Nations workforce.

38. As a member of the UN Women Executive Board for the next three years, the Dominican Republic would make every effort to promote gender equality, achieve zero tolerance for violence against women and girls, and ensure that UN Women fulfilled all the mandates assigned to it by the General Assembly. In that connection, it would work to ensure that all the mandates of the four previously existing United Nations gender entities were fully integrated into the new architecture and implemented with due respect for geographical balance. The Dominican Republic would also make every effort to contribute financially to the new Entity, despite its current severe economic adjustment programme. It hoped that UN Women would raise the profile of gender issues on the international stage, and so help to eradicate the suffering, humiliation and inequality still faced by women in many parts of the world.

39. **Mr. Benmoussa** (Morocco) said that the establishment of UN Women represented a significant step forward, for both the international community and the United Nations, in terms of increasing the coherence of the actions taken to promote women's rights and improve their living conditions worldwide.

While the new Entity had a challenging mandate that required it to conduct operational activities in different countries and regions, which would necessitate major mobilization and coordination among the various stakeholders, the leadership it would provide would undoubtedly advance the United Nations agenda on gender equality and women's empowerment.

40. His delegation supported the financing of UN Women through regular budget resources and voluntary contributions. However, it was concerned that funding from the regular budget would account for only about 1.4 per cent of the total 2011 resources for UN Women. Any shortage of voluntary contributions could hinder the Entity's work. With regard to the administrative arrangements for the regular budget resources, the General Assembly should approve option 1 as a means of ensuring efficiency and transparency.

41. Over the last 10 years, the Moroccan Government had implemented a number of reforms aimed at empowering women, ensuring gender equality, preventing violence against women, protecting their rights and enhancing their role in Moroccan society.

42. **Mr. Lieberman** (United States of America), recalling that efforts to improve the situation of women and children worldwide contributed more broadly to the development, security and prosperity of their communities, said that the creation of the new Entity represented more than just a reform of the United Nations system. As the Advisory Committee had stated, the establishment of UN Women was an important part of the Organization's ongoing efforts to strengthen its capacity to meet the challenges of the twenty-first century, in particular the increasing demand for United Nations system support to advance gender equality and women's empowerment.

43. His delegation strongly supported the Secretary-General's post and resource proposals, as endorsed by the Advisory Committee, and was in favour of funding option 1, which would allow for the integrated administration of all resources and would enable UN Women to operate effectively as a hybrid entity with two separate funding sources for normative and operational activities. It also concurred with the Advisory Committee that efforts should be made to achieve efficiencies and streamline functions in the transition and start-up phase.

44. **Ms. Dunlop** (Brazil), affirming her delegation's full support for the Under-Secretary-General for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, said it was vital that the new Entity's operational activities should be guided by the principle of universality, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 64/289. UN Women should be able to offer support to all countries, both developed and developing, in their efforts to promote gender equality and women's empowerment.

45. With regard to the funding of normative functions, her delegation was strongly in favour of increasing the share of regular budget resources to ensure that UN Women had the predictable and transparent financing it needed to meet the high expectations raised by its establishment. It was a matter of concern that funding from assessed contributions was expected to account for only about 1.4 per cent of the Entity's total 2011 resources. The posts at the Assistant Secretary-General and Director levels included in the proposed structure of UN Women, and the corresponding non-post expenditures, should be funded from the regular budget rather than from extrabudgetary resources, owing to their strategic importance and the nature of their mandate.

46. Bearing in mind the importance of maintaining the normal budget review, approval and reporting processes for the new Entity, so as to preserve the General Assembly's control of post and non-post resources and to ensure maximum transparency in the administration of regular budget resources, her delegation supported the Secretary-General's proposal to use the grant modality. It also recalled that CPC would review the changes to the 2010-2011 strategic framework that had resulted from the establishment of UN Women.

47. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 64/289, the new Entity should harmonize its business practices with those of other United Nations organizations engaged in operational activities, especially in relation to conditions of service in the field and at Headquarters, under the auspices of the International Civil Service Commission. It was also important to guarantee equitable geographical distribution and gender balance of staff, especially as a way to ensure that nationals of developing countries were represented at senior levels. Lastly, Member States needed to show active leadership and make available the necessary resources to ensure that the new Entity lived up to expectations.

48. **Mr. Yamada** (Japan) said that his delegation welcomed the progress that UN Women had made to date, particularly with regard to the timely preparation of its estimated resource requirements under the regular budget. Japan would support the Entity's efforts to successfully complete its transition period, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 64/289, and become fully operational by 1 January 2011. Efforts to increase efficiency were vital in order to ensure that the Entity's work led to more effective coordination, coherence and gender mainstreaming across the United Nations system. His delegation concurred with the Advisory Committee that, despite stakeholders' high expectations for the new Entity, UN Women should take a prudent approach to managing its growth and pursue economies of scale where possible.

49. **Mr. Puri** (India) said that the establishment of UN Women was a transformational reform initiative that consolidated the Organization's work in the crucial area of gender equality and women's empowerment. India, whose population included more than 500 million women, was unwaveringly committed to the objectives of UN Women. Gender equality and affirmative action to ensure women's empowerment were a key national priority enshrined in the country's Constitution and were the focus of many important socio-economic programmes and policies.

50. The early operationalization of the new Entity was a matter of high priority. It was vital to ensure that UN Women was equipped with adequate resources to complete the transition period smoothly and become a fully effective and functional body able to meet the huge global challenges it faced in the area of women's empowerment. The new Office of the Under-Secretary-General should also be adequately staffed. Resources should be transparently assigned and utilized to reflect the common priorities of all Member States, bearing in mind the universal, neutral and representative character of UN Women.

51. Although the percentage of the funding for UN Women that came from the regular budget was intentionally small, it was very important for ensuring intergovernmental participation in and strategic oversight of the Entity's normative functions and processes. The Committee should keep the issue under constant review and guard against the unintended dilution of the General Assembly's role in overseeing the normative processes of UN Women.

52. **Ms. Smith** (Norway), recalling that Norway had been an active proponent of gender equality and women's empowerment for decades, said that the establishment of UN Women would undoubtedly strengthen the capacity of the whole United Nations family to advance those goals. It would also promote greater coordination and coherence. The new Entity should be more than the sum of its predecessors; it needed to be a stronger advocate and more efficient agent of change, both globally and at the country level. It should supply the missing links between normative human rights frameworks and operational activities and should identify clear goals, focusing its results-based reporting on impact, not merely output. Member States, meanwhile, should deliver on their own commitments and obligations with regard to gender equality and women's empowerment, which in many cases might require domestic policy changes.

53. In considering the regular budget funding of UN Women, it was important to take into account that it was a composite entity incorporating some United Nations Secretariat functions. Norway supported the proposed use of a grant modality to implement the regular budget resources. That option had been successfully used by UNHCR for many years and, given the hybrid nature of UN Women, would enhance transparency in the administration of its budgetary resources. Norway expected that a stronger focus on results-based management and reporting procedures would contribute to a more cost-effective use of the Entity's resources. Lastly, in view of its ambitious mandate, which would require predictable and sustainable funding, UN Women should strengthen its efforts to broaden the base of contributing countries.

54. **Ms. Bachelet** (Under-Secretary-General for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women), expressing her gratitude to all Member States for their support, said that UN Women would abide by the principles of universality, national ownership and equitable geographical representation and would conduct its activities on the basis of transparency, accountability, coherence and coordination. She would personally work to ensure that the Entity maintained a constructive relationship with its Executive Board and the General Assembly.

The meeting rose at 11.45 a.m.